

The Position and Significance of Confucianism and Mencius Thought in Chinese Philosophy

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Abstract: As a typical representative of pre-Qin Confucian culture, Confucian and Mencius thought contains rich philosophical thoughts, which have great enlightenment value for modern politics, economy and education. This article aims to study the status and significance of Confucian and Mencius thought in Chinese philosophy. Taking educational philosophy as an example, based on the analysis of the characteristics of Confucian educational thought, the necessity of Confucian and Mencius thought and the modern significance of Confucian and Mencius educational philosophy. To understand the educational role of Confucian and Mencius educational philosophy in contemporary universities, this article conducted a questionnaire survey on students in a certain university. The survey results show that Confucian and Mencius educational philosophy plays an important role in strengthening the school's moral education, enriching the diversification of characteristic education, and cultivating citizen patriotism education.

Keywords: Confucian and Mencius Thoughts, Chinese Philosophy, Educational Philosophy, Value Meaning

1. Introduction

Philosophy is essentially an activity. People use their own unique philosophical thinking to fundamentally understand, think and comprehend the world, human beings and their relationship with the world, so as to provide people with the ultimate value criterion for improving the quality of life. On the one hand, the development of philosophy conforms to the pulse of the times; on the other hand, it also has its inherent changing trends, trajectories and even laws [1-2]. Therefore, how to recognize and comprehend this tendency, understand and grasp this trend, track and even law through reflection on the history of the development of philosophy, and constantly observe and understand the nature and direction of the development of philosophy itself in this kind of reflection, naturally become philosophy. The eternal mission of research and thinking. This applies to world philosophy, especially Western philosophy, and of course Chinese philosophy is no exception [3-4].

Many scholars at home and abroad have conducted Confucian studies and achieved good results. Some scholars believe that Confucianism is not only a doctrine, but also a precious resource for the universal spiritual life of modern people. Confucianism needs to participate in modern philosophical dialogues around the world. He pointed out that only by critically inheriting the foundation of ancestor Confucianism can we perfect and integrate the idealistic political education system with our party's characteristics. However, this topic did not horizontally compare and analyze the thoughts of Confucius, Mencius and Xunzi, but listed and introduced the thoughts of Confucius, Mencius and Xunzi separately, and finally reached a conclusion [5-6]. The scholar's article is divided into four parts. The first part introduces the basic knowledge, research status and research methods of topic selection. The second part mainly introduces the social and historical conditions of Mencius and Xunzi's thoughts and political education thoughts, and the third part mainly analyzes the similarities and differences of Mencius and Xunzi's thoughts, internal logic, logical structure, people-oriented and other aspects. The fourth part preliminarily examines the modern values of Mencius and Xun's ideological and political education thoughts, which are mainly to live in harmony with nature, establish scientific life and social ideals, and attach importance to the educational environment [7-8]. On the whole, the research on Confucian and Mencius thoughts is still relatively fragmented, and few people have studied their thoughts comprehensively and systematically.

On the basis of consulting a large number of relevant references, this article combines the characteristics of Confucian educational thought, the necessity of Confucian and Mencius thoughts and

the modern significance of Confucian and Mencius educational philosophy. The role played in college education.

2. The Position and Significance of Confucianism and Mencius Thought in Chinese Philosophy

2.1 The Characteristics of Confucian Educational Thought

(1) People-oriented

The first is "people-oriented". The origin of Confucianism is human, and the foundation is human. In other words, all theories and propositions are aimed at human development. Confucius wanted to cultivate a gentleman with both political integrity and ability, so that "the benevolent would not worry, the knowledgeable would not be confused, and the brave would not be afraid." He promoted "respect", "safety" and "safe people" through self-development. Mencius inherited and developed the doctrine of Confucius. He believed that a gentleman should have the ideal character of a "big man", so that "the rich and the rich cannot be licentious, the poor and the poor cannot be moved, and the mighty cannot be subdued" [9-10].

(2) Emphasize moral education

The second is to attach importance to moral education. Confucian education is actually moral education. Confucianism emphasizes "self-cultivation, equanimity, governance, and peace", which means that subsequent development is based on self-cultivation. The way to improve oneself, only through long-term moral education, can we realize the ideal country of the unified family that dominates the world [11-12]. It is not difficult to understand that since the birth of Confucius, moral education has always been the core of Confucius. Confucius has three requirements for the education of gentlemen, the most important of which is the moral requirements of gentlemen. "Benevolence" is the core of Confucius' ideological education. A true gentleman has the character of a "benevolent person" and can achieve "no survival to harm others". In addition, Confucius also particularly emphasized moral education in the aspects of "filial piety, loyalty, faith, etiquette, and righteousness". Mencius inherited the benevolence thought of Confucius and further developed into the doctrine of benevolence, with special emphasis on benevolence and justice.

(3) Pay attention to practice

Confucianism believes that only in practice can individuals obtain true moral knowledge. Therefore, Confucianism strongly supports educational methods dedicated to moral education. Confucius advocated the combination of learning, thinking, and action. To learn, you also need to understand the way of thinking. The most important thing is to put it into practice. Learning is only the beginning and ultimately contributes to behavior. In other words, in Confucius' view, "learning" is the means of teaching, and "action" is the purpose of teaching. To understand a person, you must not only listen to what he says, but also observe his behavior, act according to his words and actions, and make correct decisions about others. Mencius also attached great importance to "behavior." Mencius believes that people can only be tempered in practice. The harder the environment, the greater the potential that people can be stimulated. These great men called saints by Mencius have escaped the harsh environment and become the history of a generation. For us today, we need to pay more attention to this point. Real knowledge can only be produced through practice, and only through learning and practice can real value be realized.

2.2 The Necessity of Confucian and Mencius Thought

(1) In order to deal with the theoretical crisis that modern education may face, the "refinement" of education has made education a special kind of education. Vocational education and one-sided education are common problems in real education. Since then, education has become a kind of knowledge, skills and The one-way education of human value is a kind of social education. In addition to stimulating the primitive understanding of people and spontaneous education and education, it is becoming a stable social and functional value. Excessive exploitation makes people deviate from the original intention of the rational understanding of the world. Study the origin and background of Confucian and Mencius educational thoughts, and think about the original intention and purpose of education. Exploring the origin, values and practice of Confucian and Mencius educational thoughts from a philosophical point of view has great enlightenment for today's education.

(2) Behind the abundance of science, technology and material life, there are many social issues that need to be considered urgently. Today's resources, environment, personality, religious beliefs, interpersonal relationships, and nuclear crisis threaten people's normal life and development, and make people more nervous and confused. How to deal with the troubles caused by modern problems and build people's spiritual home has become an increasingly serious problem in people's eyes. The concern for people's behavior has been put on the agenda of education and philosophical research. Educational concepts can also be used as an important way to deal with various pressures caused by modernity.

(3) Multiple values permeate all aspects of our country's cultural education. In the integration of existing traditional cultural education and broad multiculturalism, how to integrate and supplement the differences between Chinese and Western education, not only to find differences in educational practice, to ensure the common ground of educational practice, advanced educational concepts guide differentiated values in education influence, especially in the direction of life value and social value. The study of Confucius and Mencius' educational philosophy from a philosophical point of view not only reveals the rationale for the inseparable relationship between Confucius and Mencius' educational philosophy and China's national conditions, but also reveals the rationale for the Confucian and Mencius philosophy.

2.3 The Modern Significance of Confucian and Mencius Educational Philosophy

(1) Teaching-first reference

Education is the foundation for the development of science and technology and talents. It is leading and universal in modernization and must be the strategic focus of development. The emphasis on education shows that our country has a deeper understanding of the laws of socialist modernization. Today, when science and technology have become the main productive forces, only by playing the role of education can we gradually realize the modernization of people and society. Only by placing the development of education in the strategic position of social development and improving the quality of the entire Chinese people can the country's overall national strength continue to increase.

(2) The importance of moral education

Although the content of modern moral education may be different from the pre-Qin period, the emphasis on ideological and moral education is the same. This requires not only the elimination of poverty and backwardness and economic modernization, but also the elimination of ignorance and the realization of a high degree of democracy and spiritual civilization. Only by improving moral quality can more people have the correct political direction, powerful spiritual motivation and lasting will to fight. Only by strengthening ideological and moral education under the conditions of reform and opening up can we resist the erosion of capitalist decadent ideas, destroy idealistic barriers and ordinary human forces that do not support social reforms, and sound reforms can be achieved. Reform and opening up are developing in the direction of socialism. Similarly, only through proper moral training can we fight for the development of the country and society. Therefore, we must learn from Confucius and Mencius' educational philosophy that emphasizes moral education, so that the educated people can be developed in an all-round way, which is conducive to the sublimation of our country and the overall quality of our country.

(3) The practicality of applying the experience

As far as Confucian education is concerned, objectively speaking, the types of cultivation and human issues run through the education of human society. Cultivating high-quality talents for the prosperity and strength of the Chinese nation is not only related to whether our education can maintain the nature and direction of socialism, but more importantly, whether it can train capable builders and train successors in the socialist modernization drive. Therefore, we must attach great importance to this issue ideologically. Only by adhering to the scientific formulation and implementation of corresponding education policies can we ensure the correct direction of education and can truly cultivate a large number of talented talents through education. This is the prerequisite and key to modernization. Now the report of the 16th National Congress of the Communist Party of China puts forward the latest education policy. We are earnestly studying, understanding, advocating for implementation, creating conditions, pioneering and innovative, conscious society, and striving to train builders and successors.

3. Experiment

3.1 Research Purpose

Confucius and Mencius are great thinkers and educators in ancient my country. Their educational concepts include quality education, lifelong learning, harmonious education, and innovative educational concepts in the development of modern education reforms. Studying the educational concepts of Confucius and Mencius is of great enlightenment to the reform and development of contemporary education in China, especially to the education of contemporary college students. Therefore, in order to understand the popularity of Confucianism and Mencius thought in contemporary colleges and the value of the thought, this article takes two classes of college students in a certain college in this city as the research object and conducts a questionnaire survey on them.

3.2 Reliability and Validity Test of the Questionnaire

In order to test the reliability and stability of the questionnaire, the variance of the questionnaire results was first calculated, and then the reliability of the returned questionnaire was tested by the method of "half-half reliability" test. The reliability and validity tests of this questionnaire are as follows:

$$r_{XX} = \frac{S_T^2}{S_X^2} \quad (1)$$

Or

$$r_{XX} = 1 - \frac{S_E^2}{S_X^2} \quad (2)$$

In the formula, S_T^2 represents the variance of the real score; S_X^2 represents the variance of the real score; S_E^2 represents the variance of the error.

4. Discussion

4.1 The Level of Understanding of Confucian and Mencius Educational Philosophy

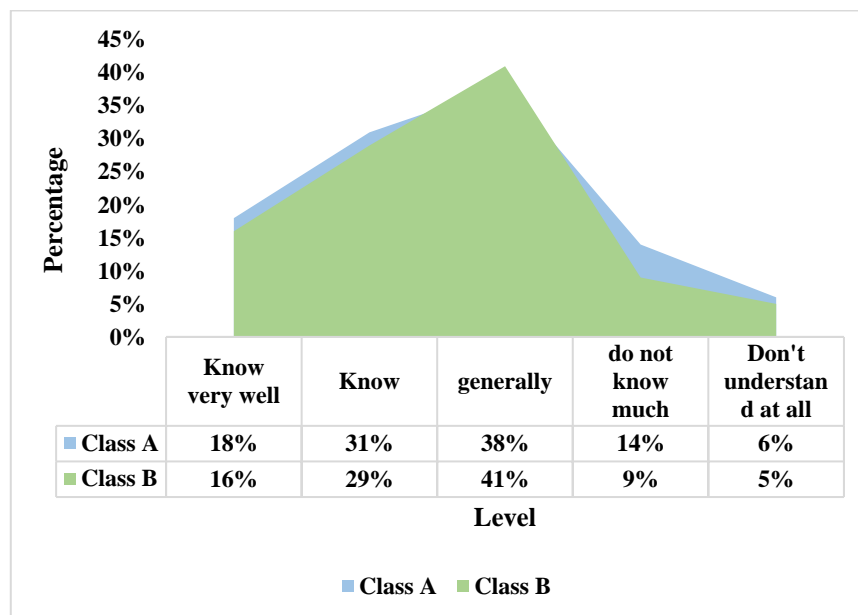


Figure 1: Contemporary college students' understanding of Confucian and Mencius educational philosophy

It can be seen from Figure 1 that most of the students in this university have a better understanding of Confucian and Mencius educational philosophy. Among them, those who know very well account for 18% and 16% respectively; those who know better account for 31% and 29% respectively; the students who have a general understanding of Confucian and Mencius educational philosophy are the most, and the two classes account for 38% and 41% respectively; no The students who understand are also below 20%.

4.2 The Educational value of Confucian and Mencius Thought in Contemporary Universities

Table 1: The Educational Value of Confucian and Mencius Thoughts in Contemporary Colleges

	Class A	Class B
Promoted the development of compulsory education	24%	33%
Promote the promotion of higher education	19%	26%
Strengthened school moral education	76%	74%
Citizen patriotism education	69%	63%
Enriched the diversity of education	72%	68%
Cultivate innovative talents	58%	52%

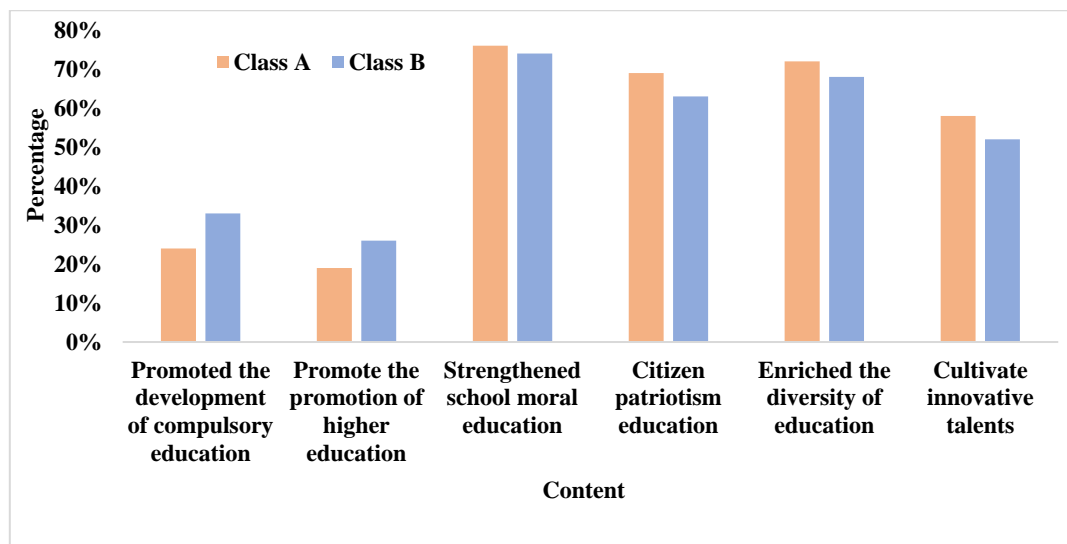


Figure 2: The Educational Value of Confucian and Mencius Thoughts in Contemporary Colleges

It can be found from Table 1 and Figure 2 that most students believe that Confucianism and Mencius thought can strengthen the school's moral education, educate students on civilized behaviors, and cultivate students' civilized behavior habits; secondly, teaching in accordance with their aptitude can enrich special education. Diversification allows students to receive education that they are interested in and more suitable for them; 69% and 63% of students believe that Confucianism and Mencius thought can cultivate civic patriotism education, promote traditional culture and national spirit, and establish a model of civic morality; In addition, 24% and 33% of the students believe that the idea of having no kind of education can promote the development of compulsory education, so that everyone can receive education and make education popular.

5. Conclusions

Confucian and Mencius thoughts are the crystallization of the wisdom and cultural heritage of the Chinese nation, and are one of the most precious treasures in traditional Chinese culture. Through the analysis and evaluation of the Confucian and Mencius thoughts, the essence of Confucius and Mencius can be taken in depth, and the past can be used for reference. From the perspective of educational philosophy, Confucian and Mencius thoughts provide a wealth of educational content for modern education, and have important enlightenment values for establishing modern educational concepts, optimizing modern educational structures, and applying modern educational methods.

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